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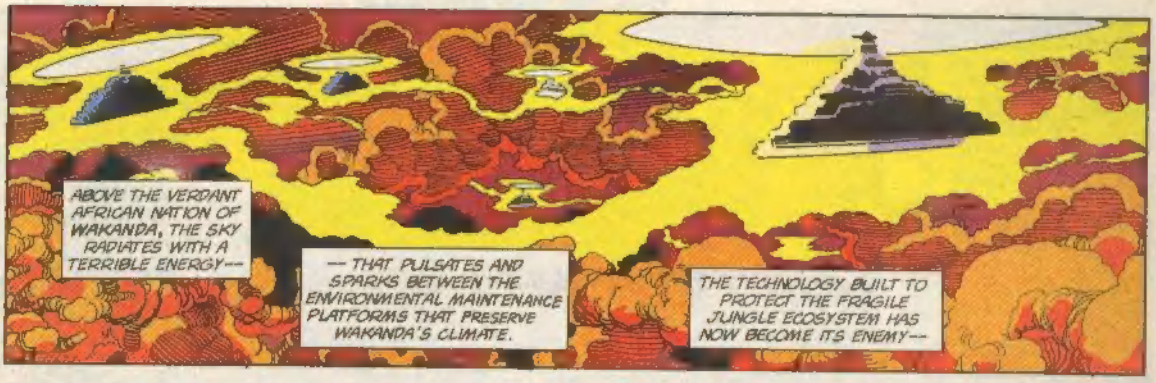
ABOVE THE VERDANT AFRICAN NATION OF WAKANDA, THE SKY RADIATES WITH A TERRIBLE ENERGY--
-- THAT PULSATES AND SPARKS BETWEEN THE ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE PLATFORMS THAT PRESERVE WAKANDA'S CLIMATE.
THE TECHNOLOGY BUILT TO PROTECT THE FRAGILE JUNGLE ECOSYSTEM HAS NOW BECOME ITS ENEMY--

-- MANIFESTING HURRICANE FORCE WINDS AND LIGHTNING STORMS ASSAULTING THE LAND BELOW.
PRINCESS, MY CREWS ARE DOING THEIR BEST--
-- BUT THEY CAN'T STAY ALOFT IN THIS KIND OF ELECTRICAL STORM.
TRY TO CONTAIN THE BLAZE, CHIEF.
DR. QUIÑONES AND I WILL GO BACK TO THE ARCHIVE TO TRY AND SHUT DOWN THE EMPS.
THIS IS WORSE THAN WE COULD EVER HAVE IMAGINED.
THANDAZA WAS ON LINE WITH THE MAINFRAME WHEN WE REVIVED HIM.

SOMEHOW HE TAPPED INTO THE SYSTEM AND IS USING THE EMPS' SOLAR GENERATORS TO POWER HIS RAMPAGE.
KRKROWMMM
PRINCESS, WHAT HAVE WE DONE?
WE'VE CREATED A MONSTER...

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"... AND DOOM WAS THE FIRST TO FALL."
AT THE CENTER OF THE MAELSTROM RAGES THANDAZA—
—THE REVERED WAKANDAN LEADER FELLED BY CANCER THIRTY YEARS PAST.
HOURS AGO, HIS CRYONICALLY PRESERVED REMAINS WERE MELDED WITH A BODY OF REINFORCED VIBRANIUM.
UNFORTUNATELY, THE CYBERNETIC RESURRECTION OF THE ELDER WAS SABOTAGED BY THE PANTHER GUARD, MKHALALI.
AND INSTEAD OF REVIVING THE COMPASSIONATE SAGE OF DECADES GONE—
— THE PRINCESS UNLEASHED A CRAZED MONSTROSITY UPON HER COUNTRY.

PAIN! SO VERY MUCH PAIN-- LIKE KNIVES IN MY SKULL.
YOU WILL ALL SUFFER WITH ME.
Stan Lee presents
FIRE And REIGN
John Francis Moore • writer
Pat Broderick • penciler
John Nyberg • inker
John Costanza • letterer
Mike Thomas • colorist
Joey Cavalieri • editor
Tom DeFalco • editor in chief

LATVERIA.
UH OH. DOOM'S NOT GETTING UP.
THIS FIREWORKS DISPLAY'S TURNING APOCALYPTIC.
I BYPASSED DOOM'S LAB SECURITY CODES TO CRACK HIS SATELLITE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM.
THOUGHT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO SCOPE [redacted] IN WAKANDA.
SURE IT'S LIKE LOOKING FOR A MICROPROCESSOR IN A JUNKYARD--
-- BUT SINCE XAN LEFT FOR AFRICA I'VE BEEN FULL-ON SCRAMBLED.
AND SEEING DOOM LAID OUT CODE RED DOESN'T EASE THE NOISE.
WISH FORTUNE [redacted] HERE. SHE'D [redacted] WHAT TO DO, BUT SHE'S ON HER WAY TO CHINA.
LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE'S ABANDONED ME.
WWWWWW
WWWWWWWHRRRRRRR
ALERT: UNAUTHORIZED PRESENCE DETECTED.
WHAT THE...?

I AM D.O.M.O., A DOMESTIC ORGANIZATIONAL MOBILE OPERATIVE PROTOTYPE.
I HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO MONITOR AND MAINTAIN THE LABORATORY IN MY CREATOR'S ABSENCE.
SO DOOM BUILT HIMSELF A COMBINATION BUTLER, JANITOR, AND BOUNCER?
BODY DESIGN COULD USE A LITTLE WORK.
NO OFFENSE.
IF YOU DO NOT EXIT THE LABORATORY NOW, I WILL FORCIBLY EXPEL YOU.
HEY, LET GO--
I AM CAPABLE OF RELEASING A CHARGE OF UP TO SIXTY THOUSAND VOLTS OF ELECTRICITY TO INSURE COMPLIANCE.
OKAY. I'M GOING. CAN'T ARGUE WITH A MACHINE.
ON THE OTHER HAND, WITH ALL ITS CIRCUITRY EXPOSED--
-- I THINK I CAN CONVINCE DOMO TO LET ME STAY IN THE LAB.

"I NEED TO FIND OUT IF XANDRA'S ANYWHERE NEAR THE CONFLAG IN WAKANDA."
THE ENTIRE VILLAGE IS PANICKING, MOHAU.
CONSIDER THIS YOUR FIRST FIELD LESSON, XANDRA.
YOU MUST LEARN TO THINK AND ACT CLEARLY IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS--
-- OR YOU MAKE THINGS WORSE.

ZZZZARKKROW!
MOHAU! THOSE CHILDREN! BY THE PANTHER MONUMENT!

GOT TO GET THERE BEFORE THE FALLING STONE CRUSHES THEM.

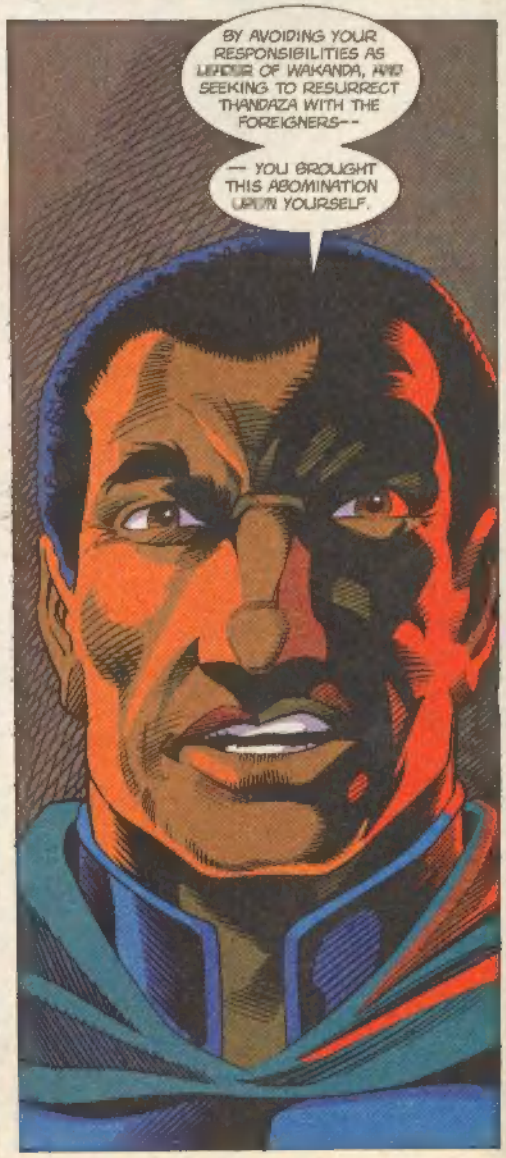
CHUNDK!
YES!
MY BABIES!

HERE YOU ARE. I THINK HE'S JUST SHAKEN UP.
THANK YOU--
SACRED MOTHER, I'M STANDING BEFORE A GHOST.

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME THAT WAY?
I KNOW YOU. YOU'RE---
XANDRA. THE FIRE LINE. LET'S GO.

BUT SHE SAID SHE KNOWS ME. HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? NOBODY KNOWS ME HERE.
LATER, XANDRA. GRAB A SHOVEL AND START WORKING THE BREAK.

NOMEN, ON THE STEPS OF THE WAKANDAN ARCHIVE.
MKHALALI, YOU DID THIS! IF YOU HADN'T INTERRUPTED THE CYBERNETIC INTERFACE PROCESS--
-- THANDAZA WOULD NEVER HAVE GONE INSANE!
YOU HAD NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE.
I HAD EVERY RIGHT. MY DUTY IS TO MY COUNTRY.

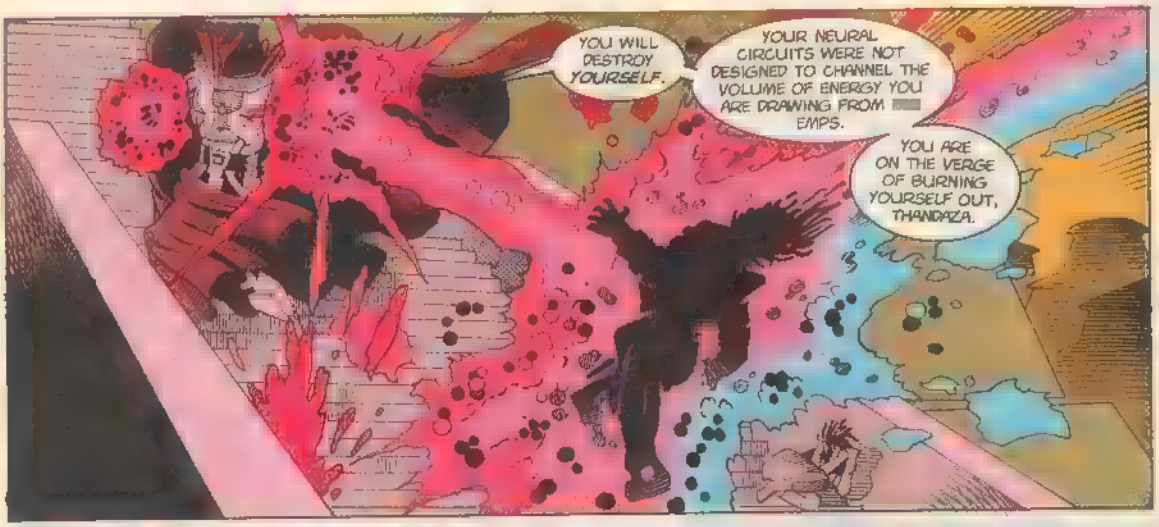

BY AVOIDING YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS LEADER OF WAKANDA, AND SEEKING TO RESURRECT THANDAZA WITH THE FOREIGNERS--
-- YOU BROUGHT THIS ABOMINATION UPON YOURSELF.

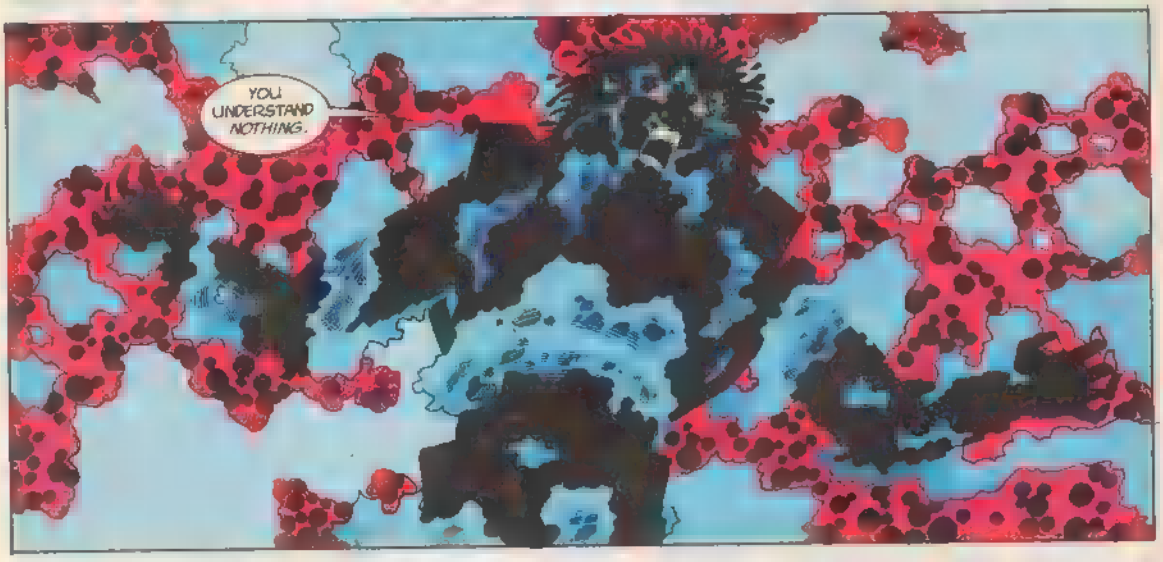
TRAITOR. I'LL SEE YOU EXILED. YOU'LL NEVER SET FOOT ON WAKANDAN SOIL AGAIN.
SMEK
YOUR JUDGMENT HAS SOURED, PRINCESS. YOU WERE RAISED ROYALTY--
-- WHILE I WAS RAISED TO BE ONE OF THE PANTHER ELITE.
THOUGH IT PAINS ME TO STRIKE YOU, A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY--
-- IF IT MAKES MY POINT, I WILL.
KRAK
WE NEED THE LIVING, NOT THE REANIMATED DEAD, TO LEAD US.
ASSUME YOUR RIGHTFUL PLACE AS LEADER OF WAKANDA!
YOU CAN'T HANG ON TO THE PAST.
THUNK!

IF YOU WILL NOT TAKE CHARGE, PRINCESS--
-- I WILL.
MKHALALI--
AAGGHHHHH!!!
SSSZLLL
ZZZ KRRKZZZZZ
FEEL THE PAIN YOU INFLICT ON ME!
GRANDFATHER.
STOP. PLEASE.

ANOTHER THING, SIR!
THANKS, DOMO.
I KNEW YOU'D BE MORE FRIENDLY ONCE I REWROTE YOUR RECOGNITION CODES.
THE FEED FROM WAKANDA'S FADING.
THE DREADLOCKED CYBORG'S ENERGY LEVELS ARE CAUSING MAJOR INTERFERENCE.
SCREEEEEE
SCREEEEEE
DOMO?
YES, SIR NO, SIR YES, SIR NO, SIR YES, SIR NO, SIR
OH, NO. DOOM'LL KILL ME IF I BROKE HIS ROBOT.
ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW IF HE SURVIVED THE BEATING HE TOOK FROM THANOZA.
EMERGENCY SYSTEM ACTIVATED.
INITIALIZING PROGRAM L SLASH 0167.
EXTERNAL CONNECTION COMPLETED.
BATTERY POWER TRANSFER INITIATED.

ROUTING POWER TO WAKANDA
I WILL END THIS WORLD OF MISERY---
-- THIS WORLD THAT YOU CREATED.
GRANDFATHER, [redacted] CAN REVERSE THE PROCESS. I PROMISE I'LL DO EVERYTHING--
NOTHING CAN HELP ANY OF US.
DO NOT BE SO CERTAIN, THANDAZA.
I KILLED YOU ONCE--
NO, ELDER. YOU DID NOT.
YOUR INITIAL ASSAULT ONLY MOMENTARILY DAMAGED MY ARMOR SYSTEM.
I HAD ONLY TO [redacted] MY TIME UNTIL MY SERVITOR, UPON LOSING MY BEACON SIGNAL--
-- BROADCAST A FOCUSED ENERGY WAVE WHICH ACTIVATED [redacted] SECONDARY BACKUPS.
MORE NOISE. I WILL MAKE ALL SILENT.


YOU WILL DESTROY YOURSELF.
YOUR NEURAL CIRCUITS WERE NOT DESIGNED TO CHANNEL THE VOLUME OF ENERGY YOU ARE DRAWING FROM [redacted] EMPS.
YOU ARE ON THE VERGE OF BURNING YOURSELF OUT, THANDAZA.


YOU UNDERSTAND NOTHING.

I AM ALREADY DEAD!

HE'S DRAINING TOO MUCH POWER.
HIS ORGANICS WON'T STAND MUCH MORE.

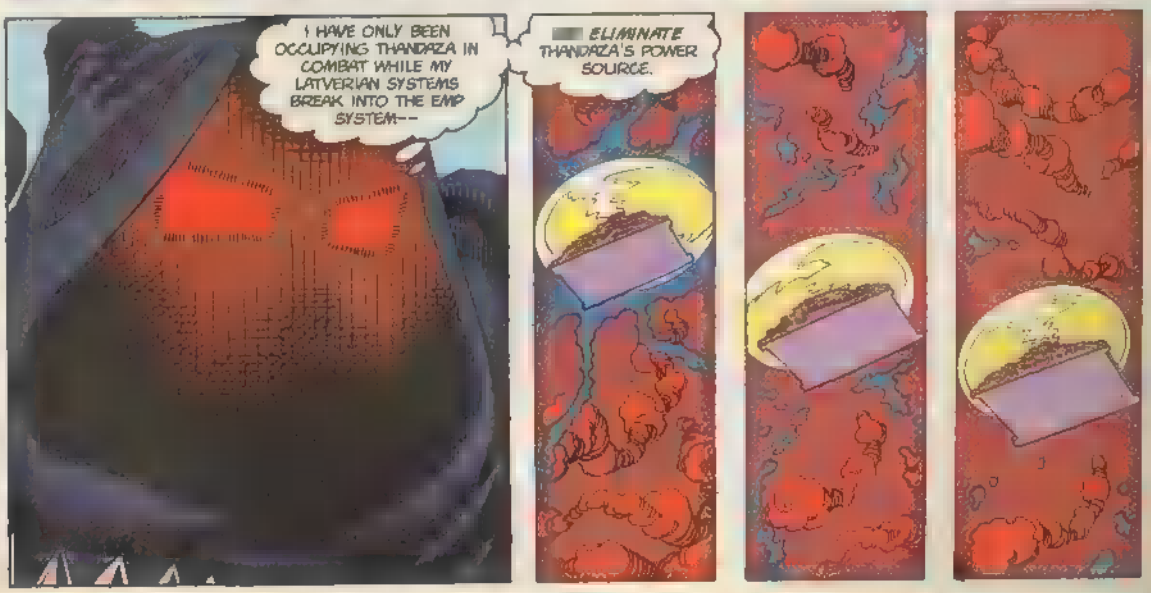
AADRRCH

DOOM'S COMPUTER'S STARTED RUNNING WAKANDAN ENCRYPTION CODES.
WHAT'S HE TRYING TO ACCESS?
INCOMING MESSAGE

WIRE, WHERE'S FORTUNE? I'VE TRIED TO PAGE HER FOR TWO DAYS STRAIGHT.
DIDN'T SHE TELL YOU?
SHE'S ■ ■ WAY TO CHINA WITH THE PILOT WHO TOLD HER HER BROTHER WAS STILL ALIVE.
KAZ IS ALIVE!? HE CAN'T BE! I WATCHED HIM FALL OFF THE SIDE OF ■ MOUNTAIN NINE YEARS AGO.
FORTUNE WOULDN'T ■ LEFT IF SHE DIDN'T BELIEVE SHE COULD FIND HER ■.
BLAST. THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING.
COMPUTER. SWITCH COMLINK TO THE NEON ANGEL.
POET. WHAT'S THE GOOD WORD? I THOUGHT YOU WERE ON YOUR WAY TO THE BIG APPLE.
SOMETHING'S COME UP. I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO CRASH THE VALHALLA CHRISTENING.
THE VECTOR BOYS WON'T BE HAPPY.
THEY EXPECTED YOU TO SUPPLY ■ WITH THE REAL SCOOP ON ALCHEMAX'S AERIAL CITY.
WORD ■ AVATARR'S STEPPED OUT OF THE SHADOWS TO OVERSEE THIS PROJECT.
SORRY, ANGEL. CALL SOMEONE ELSE.
I'M HEADING EAST, NOT WEST.

MOSCOW.
YOU'RE AN ENIGMATIC WOMAN, LEI FONG.
FIRST, YOU CRASH INTO THE ZEFIRO CAMP [redacted] THE REVELATION THAT MY BROTHER IS ALIVE SOMEWHERE IN CHINA--
-- THEN YOU BARELY SAY A WORD AS WE CROSS THE BORDER INTO THE FREE RUSSIAN ALLIANCE--
-- AND NOW YOU LEAD ME INTO THE HEART OF MOSCOW'S NIGHTCLUB DISTRICT.
IF THE CARDS HADN'T ASSURED ME YOU WERE TRUST-WORTHY--
-- I MIGHT BE CONCERNED.
WE MUST MEET SOMEONE HERE.
LOOK AT THOSE CLOTHES. WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
THE HOTTEST RETRO-CLUB IN MOSCOW. PRE-SOVIET COLLAPSE NOSTALGIA IS ALL THE RAGE HERE.
IT'S AN ODD PLACE TO BOOK PASSAGE TO CHINA.
WE CAN'T RETURN DIRECTLY. FENG HUANG WILL HAVE MEN LOOKING FOR ME.
FENG HUANG?
IS SOME PARTY, EH, BEAUTIFUL LADIES?
PLEASE ALLOW VITALI MORKOVKIN TO [redacted] YOU AND DRINK OF YOUR RADIANT SMILES.
IS THIS GUY FOR REAL?
HE'S OUR PILOT.
NO MATTER THE WEATHER, MORKOVKIN WILL TAKE FASCINATING WOMEN ANYWHERE THEY WANT TO GO.

YOU CAN'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FEEL YOUR SOUL BURNING!
THANDAZA'S GENERATING A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF HEAT.
HIS [redacted] BODY ONLY INCREASES THE ENERGY COURSING THROUGH HIM.
EVEN WITH MY ARMOR'S COOLING SYSTEM, I CAN FEEL THE TEMPERATURE RISE!
A PITY SUCH A GREAT AND VISIONARY MAN SHOULD BE REDUCED TO A RAMPAGING BRUTE.
THIS PHYSICAL CONFLICT GOES ON TOO LONG.


I HAVE ONLY BEEN OCCUPYING THANDAZA IN COMBAT WHILE MY LATVERIAN SYSTEMS BREAK INTO THE EMP SYSTEM--
[redacted] ELIMINATE THANDAZA'S POWER SOURCE.

WHAT HAVE YOU--
... DONE...?
WITHOUT THE FIELD OF ENERGY RADIATING AROUND HIM, I CAN FINALLY GET CLOSE ENOUGH--
-- TO REACH INTO THANDAZA'S ROBOT BODY--
-- AND TURN OFF THE INTERIOR GENERATOR.
ODD. HE SEEMS TO HAVE STOPPED RESISTING IN THE FINAL MOMENTS.
-- AS IF THAT'S WHAT HE WANTED.
... THANK... YOU...

THE ELDER NO LONGER POSES A THREAT, PRINCESS.
IF HIS [redacted] IS STILL ALIVE, WE CAN SAVE HIM-- I CAN'T LET THANDAZA DIE AGAIN.
AS YOU WISH, BUT CONSIDER THIS--
HIS REVIVAL [redacted] OF CONTINUAL AGONY.
WHEN I SHUT HIM DOWN--
--HE SEEMED GRATEFUL.
WHAT HAVE I DONE?

OKUSANA'S LABORATORY
I'M SORRY, PRINCESS. WHAT'S LEFT OF THANDAZA'S BODY HAS REJECTED THE CYBERNETIC CONNECTIONS.
EVEN IF MIKHALAL HADN'T INTERFERED, THANDAZA, WOULDN'T HAVE SURVIVED LONG
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING MORE WE CAN DO-- SOMETHING WE'VE FORGOTTEN.
PERHAPS HE NEVER WISHED TO BE REVIVED.
PERHAPS.
... SANA... GRAND-DAUGHTER...
... MY TIME IS LONG PAST...
... THE FUTURE IS...
... YOURS

THANDAZA IS BETTER REMEMBERED HERE IN THE SHRINE OF THE ELDER--
-- AS A VOICE OF STRENGTH AND WISDOM WHO GUIDED WAKANDA THROUGH A DIFFICULT PART OF ITS HISTORY--
-- NOT AS A ROBOT ABOMINATION WHO CAME CLOSE TO DESTROYING THE COUNTRY.
IT PAINS ME TO REALIZE THAT THOUGH MKHALALI WAS MISGUIDED IN HIS ACTIONS, HE WAS RIGHT.
I MUST LEAD WAKANDA INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.
WE SURVIVE OUR MISTAKES AND GROW STRONGER, PRINCESS.
WAKANDA IS IN CAPABLE HANDS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS HERE-- BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE YOUR MOTIVES IN AIDING ME WERE TOTALLY ALTRUISTIC.

LATVERIA MUST FORGE ALLIANCES TO REMAIN STRONG, AND WAKANDA IS A COUNTRY OF STRENGTH AND RESOURCE.
I WELCOME A CONTINUED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

YOU PLY THE SUBTLETIES OF DIPLOMACY TOO WELL, DOOM.
YOU ARE FAR MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOUR SPIKED ARMOR IMPLIES.
I WILL BE WATCHING YOU.

I WOULD EXPECT NO LESS, PRINCESS.

LATVERIA.
DOMO, BRING ME A SANDWICH, OKAY?
I AM NOT PLEASED THAT YOU HAVE TAMPERED WITH MY ROBOT.
DOOM! YOU'RE BACK!
SORRY ABOUT DOMO... YOU WERE GONE... IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN...
MAKE CERTAIN OF THAT.
HOWEVER, SINCE YOU HAVE SEEN FIT TO REWIRE THE ROBOT, TAKE HIM.
I HAVE ALREADY BEGUN WORK ON THE SECOND GENERATION DOMO.
ALL RIGHT!
GUESS WHAT, DOMO! I GET TO KEEP YOU!
I CAN AFFORD TO BE GENEROUS.
OKUSANA WAS RIGHT IN SENSING THAT MY AID WAS ONLY SUPERFICIALLY DIPLOMATIC.
I GAINED ACCESS TO THE WAKANDAN TECHNOLOGICAL DATABASE--
-- A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR THE FUTURE.

WAKANDA.
YOU HANDLED YOURSELF ADMIRABLY DURING THE STORM, XANDRA.
BUT DON'T LET THAT GO TO YOUR HEAD. YOUR TRAINING HAS ONLY BEGUN.
ARE YOU READY? YOU'VE DONE THIS BEFORE. I EXPECT IMPROVEMENT.
YES, MOHAU.
THIS EXERCISE RAISES YOUR PERCEPTUAL SENSITIVITY--
-- BY DECEIVING THE SENSES YOU MOST RELY ON, SIGHT AND SOUND--
-- FORCING YOU TO RELY ON THE OTHER SENSES AND YOUR INSTINCTS--
I HATE THIS EXERCISE.
WHUMP
IT IS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE EASY.
YOU MOVE MORE ASSUREDLY AND WITH LESS HESITATION.
AN ENCOURAGING SIGN.
IT MUST BE HER.
SHE MOVES LIKE HER MOTHER DID.

HONG KONG, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.
THIS IS STILL THE ONLY PART OF CHINA OPEN TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.
IF YOU WANT TO MAKE YOUR WAY TO THE INTERIOR, YOU MUST DO IT FROM HERE.
I DON'T TRUST YOU, MORKOVKIN.
BECAUSE YOUR CARDS TELL YOU SO, MY PRETTY GYPSY?
SUPERSTITIOUS NONSENSE. YOU SIMPLY DENY THE POWERFUL ATTRACTION YOU FEEL FOR ME.
YOU NEVER STOP, DO YOU?
PLEASE, COMRADES, WE MUST BE ON OUR GUARD.
PENG HUANG'S PEOPLE ARE EVERYWHERE IN THIS CITY.
NOT TO WORRY, LEI FONG.
NO ONE KNOWS WE ARE HERE.
TRUST ME.
TO BE CONTINUED...

"To be omnipotent but friendless is to reign."
—Percy Shelley